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PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

INVENTOR: John A. Fitzsimmons,) EXAMINER: Renee R. Berry
et al.)
SERIAL NO.: 10/708,735) ART UNIT: 2818
FILING DATE: March 22, 2004) DATE: September 14, 2005
FOR: CRACKSTOP WITH RELEASE LAYER FOR CRACK CONTROL IN
SEMICONDUCTOR

RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

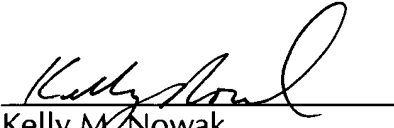
Dear Sir:

Responsive to the Office Action mailed August 23, 2005, and the restriction requirement made therein, applicants provisionally elect Group I, claims 1-19, drawn to a method of controlling cracks in an integrated circuit, for continued examination herein.

Applicants traverse the restriction requirement on the grounds that 35 U.S.C. § 121 authorizes restriction only when the claimed invention is "independent and distinct" (emphasis added). A search of the subject matter of Group I, claims 1-19, drawn to a method of controlling cracks in an integrated circuit would necessarily require a search of the subject matter of Group II, claim 20, drawn to a crack stop structure.

Applicants respectfully submit that a search of the subject matter of Group I will necessarily cover a search of the subject matter of Group II.


Respectfully submitted,


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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service on the date indicated below as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Name: Carol M. Thomas Date: September 14, 2005 Signature: 

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